## SISTER ANITA (VINCENZINA DI FRANCO)

July 1 (legislative day, June 27), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCarran, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2166]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 2166) for the relief of Sister Anita (Vincenzina Di Franco), having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

## PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Sister Anita (Vincenzina Di Franco). The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 28-year-old native and citizen of Italy who last entered the United States as a visitor on August 15, 1949. She is a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood and is now carrying out her duties as a nun at the LaSalette Seminary, Altamont, N. Y.

A letter dated September 19, 1951, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives from the Acting Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

SEPTEMBER 19, 1951.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER, Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Chairman: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (H. R. 2166) for the relief of Sister Anita (Vincenzina Di Franco), an alien.

The bill would provide that Sister Anita (Vincenzina Di Franco) shall be considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of its enactment, upon payment of the required visa fee and head tax. It would also direct the Secretary of State to instruct the quota-control officer to deduct one number from the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that the alien is a Catholic nun who was born in Licata, Italy, on March 31, 1924, and is a citizen of Italy. She entered the United States at the port of New York, as a passenger on the steamship Sobieski on August 15, 1949, when she was temporarily admitted as a visitor under section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act

of 1924, for a period of 6 months.

The files further disclose that Sister Anita is a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood, and entered this country under instructions of the mother general of the order located in Rome, Italy. Upon her arrival in this country she was destined to the LaSalette Seminary at Altamont, N. Y., where her duties consisted primarily of working in the kitchen and taking care of the chapel. The alien stated that she attended school in Italy for 7 years and joined the Catholic order of the Sisters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood when she was 22 years of age. She further stated that her parents were killed during the bombardment of their native village in 1942, that she was left alone and joined the order, as she had no relatives left.

According to Father William F. Riddle, who is located at the seminary, there are three Sisters of the order at the seminary at the present time where, as a rule, the order requires a minimum of three Sisters to be together. He stated that if the alien is required to depart, there would be no available replacement, and it would be necessary for the remaining two Sisters to leave the seminary, which would work a hardship He further stated that because of the small number of Sisters of the order, this order is unable to fulfill its functions here as it does in Italy and other countries, such as supervising orphanages, old people's homes, day nurseries, and hospitals, and the situation in the United States restricts the order to domestic duties and to service in chapels, which latter service lay persons cannot undertake.

The quota of Italy, to which the alien is chargeable, is oversubscribed and a quota immigration visa is not readily obtainable. In the absence of general or special legislation, Sister Anita will be required to leave the United States and await her regular turn for the issuance of an immigration visa.

Whether, under the circumstances in this case, the general provisions of the immigration laws should be waived presents a question of legislative policy concerning which this Department prefers not to make any recommendation.
Yours sincerely,

WM. AMORY UNDERHILL, Acting Deputy Attorney General.

The files of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives contain the following information in connection with the bill:

> DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD, Altamont, N. Y., February 11, 1951.

Re bill H. R. 2166.

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that Sister Anita (Vincenzina Franco) is a member of the religious community known as the Daughters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood.

Our work consists in conducting homes for the aged, orphanages, hospitals, rochial schools, and day nurseries. In Europe we are conducting institutions of parochial schools, and day nurseries. this nature with remarkable success and hope to launch out here in the United States of America just as soon as we are a little more numerous. We already have schools and nurseries in Paterson, N. J., and in Bridgeport, Conn. We are also engaged in the creditable work of instructing Italian immigrants, especially war brides teaching them English, the immense advantage of American citizenship, and imminent dangers of communism. It is for this work that young Sister Anita is being trained here at Altamont. She has made excellent progress in English and if allowed to remain in America will soon be able and fitted to take her place in this very important work. At present Sister Anita (together with two other Sisters) is stationed at LaSalette Seminary, Altamont, N. Y. where she is assisting the missionaries of LaSalette, a religious community of men who are engaged in many benevolent, charitable, and philanthropic works throughout the United States and in numerous parts of the world, including Burma and

Madagascar.

Sister Anita's work here at Altamont is of a varied nature and includes taking care of the chapel, sacristy, sacred vestments, sacred vessels, etc. Because of the manner of life of the missionaries of LaSalette and the nature of their work lay people may not be employed for the performance of these religious duties and American Sisters are not available. Sisters are in such demand and so sorely needed in America that the LaSalette Fathers have been unable to procure the services of American nuns. They have traveled from coast to coast, but to no avail.

The work we are engaged in here at Altamont is not our work, but we are so few in number in this country that we are obliged to take this assignment as a stepping stone to our real work which we have briefly outlined above.

We are recruiting vocations and hope in the not too distant future to establish new foundations in this country. Consequently, if Sister Anita is obliged to return to Italy, it will greatly retard us and will also place the missionaries of LaSalette in an embarrassing position, for in the event that Sister Anita leaves, the other two Sisters will have to leave also, for according to our holy rule we must always number at least three Sisters in any residence.

Sincerely hoping and earnestly praying that Sister Anita may be spared to us that we may be able to inaugurate and carry on the work for Christ Jesus that is

so dear to our hearts, we are,

Sincerely,

THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD, Sister Bartolomea, Mother Superior.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of February 1951.

[SEAL]

MILLARD H. SEVERSON Notary Public in the State of New York, Residing in Albany County, No. 208.

Commission expires March 30, 1951.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 2166) should be enacted.